Birds in Wales
Adar yng Nghymru

Scarce and rare birds- 2020 - Adar prin

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Scarce and rare birds in Wales 2020

WELSH BIRDS RARITIES COMMITTEE

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by Ben Porter.

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Introduction

This is the twenty first annual report of the Welsh Birds Rarities Committee (WBRC), formerly the Welsh Records Panel (WRP) covering the occurrence of rare and scarce bird species in Wales in 2020. The table below summarises the number of scarce and rare birds recorded in Wales over the past ten years in terms of their historical occurrence:

	0-1 records	2-5 records	6-10 records	11-20 records	21-50 records	51-100 records	100+ records	Total
2020	0	4	3	14	16	37	72	146
2019	2	5	10	7	25	15	37	101
2018	2	8	10	5	19	21	79	144
2017	1	12	7	11	37	56	20	144
2016	2	6	14	12	35	38	63	170
2015	2	5	2	9	15	13	46	92
2014	2	13	14	11	21	42	73	176
2013	2	11	5	12	14	41	45	130
2012	0	5	5	17	37	49	35	148
2011	0	4	9	10	30	26	72	151
2010	2	7	1	10	33	16	70	137

This report follows the taxonomy, names and systematic sequence of the new British Ornithologists Union (BOU) British List (2020) and includes all those records assessed by the WBRC along with those accepted by the British Birds Rarities Committee (BBRC) (shown in italics). Descriptions of scarce species were received from the County Recorders for all Welsh Counties and occasionally directly from the observers. The report includes many digital photos and WBRC welcomes the submission of any photographic evidence but this ideally should be accompanied by a written description. Occasionally the Panel also receives descriptions of other bird species to assess from County Recorders and Editors - these are not detailed in this report.

WBRC would like to thank everyone who submitted records, all the photographers, the County Recorders and everyone else who has helped in the assessment process.

Rare and scarce bird species (assessed by WBRC) are defined as those occurring on average 5 times or fewer annually in Wales. As of 1st January 2020 the full list of species which WBRC considers is as follows:

Taiga Bean Goose	Tundra Bean Goose	American Wigeon	Green-winged Teal
Ring-necked Duck	Surf Scoter	Smew	White-billed Diver
Cory's Shearwater	Great Shearwater	Wilson's Petrel	Red-necked Grebe
Night Heron	Purple Heron	White Stork	Glossy Ibis
Black Kite	Montagu's Harrier	Rough-legged Buzzard	White-tailed Eagle
Golden Eagle	Red-footed Falcon	Corn Crake	Spotted Crake
Crane	Stone-Curlew	American Golden Plover	Temminck's Stint
White-rumped Sandpiper	Pectoral Sandpiper	Buff-breasted Sandpiper	Red-necked Phalarope
Lesser Yellowlegs	Ring-billed Gull	Caspian Gull	White-winged Black Tern
Alpine Swift	Bee-eater	Golden Oriole	Red-backed Shrike
Woodchat Shrike	Short-toed Lark	Shore Lark	Red-rumped Swallow
Greenish Warbler	Arctic Warbler	Dusky Warbler	Radde's Warbler
Pallas's Warbler	Barred Warbler	Icterine Warbler	Melodious Warbler
Marsh Warbler	Blyth's Reed Warbler	Rose-coloured Starling	Nightingale
Bluethroat	Red-flanked Bluetail	Red-breasted Flycatcher	Penduline Tit
Citrine Wagtail	Olive-backed Pipit	Serin	Common Redpoll
Arctic Redpoll	Common Rosefinch	Corn Bunting	Cirl Bunting
Ortolan Bunting	Rustic Bunting	Little Bunting	

Scarce races are considered on the same basis (i.e. all those occurring on average 5 times or fewer annually). However, it is acknowledged that the status, and in some cases the identification, of some races is very uncertain. The WBRC welcomes well-documented submissions of races that observers consider to be scarce in Wales. Through this process we hope to establish the occurrence of these forms but submissions will probably in most cases require detailed descriptions, photographic evidence and in some cases biometrics or a specimen.

BBRC have requested submissions of rare races (see Kehoe, C. 2006 Racial identification and assessment in Britain, *British Birds* 99: 619-645 for extra guidance) and the WBRC will forward any claims that are considered sufficiently rare for BBRC to assess. Examples of races for which the WBRC would like to receive submissions are:

Black Brant Goose – *nigricans*
Razorbill – *torda*
Grey-headed Wagtail - *thunbergi*
Jay – *glandarius*
Bullfinch –*pyrrhula*
Iceland Gull – *kumlieni*
Little Auk – *polaris*
Treecreeper – *familaris*
Jackdaw – *monedula*
Common Guillemot – *hyperborea*
Great Spotted Woodpecker – *major*
Coal Tit – *ater*
Redpolls – *islandica* / *rostrata*

Since last year's report, Bearded Tit has dropped off WBRC list, as there is a stable, small population in Gwent of six pairs or so. Lesser Scaup and Kentish Plover have moved back onto BBRC list.

The report follows the format introduced last year and that printed in "Birds of Wales" (2021). Where two records probably relate to the same bird then only one is added to the total, while if two records are only possibly of the same bird, then both are added into the totals. In some cases, the figures suggest changes in occurrence in the last twenty years, although it should be noted that some apparent declines may be due, to some extent, to a decline in the habit of observers submitting descriptions or some apparent increases in improved identification criteria and better optics or cameras. Status comments have come from Birds of Wales 2021 and the main references of rarities and scarcities in the UK come from BBRC report (Holt 2021) and British Bird's Report on scarce migrant birds in Britain (White & Kehoe).

The names that appear after individual records are of those observers who sent in descriptions (if the finder is known then his /her name is included in italics) and are included here to show recognition of the time taken to produce a description and the observer's commitment to the nationally recognised system of rare bird record assessment, unless there is a specific request that their name is not shown.

The Panel consists of six voting members, in 2020 they were: Steve Stansfield, Bardsey (Chairman), Richard Brown – Skokholm & Pembroke, Chris Jones – Denbigh, Simon Murray – E & W Glamorgan, Paul Roberts E. Glamorgan, Robin Sandham – Caernarfon and a non-voting Secretary, Jon Green - Ceredigion. The longest serving member of the Panel retires and a new member is elected annually by the Welsh County Recorders and the Council of the Welsh Ornithological Society. Potential candidates are proposed by County Recorders, anyone who is interested should contact their County Recorder or the WBRC Secretary.

Descriptions, photos, videos and any other relevant evidence of WBRC species should be submitted as soon as possible after the sighting (WBRC description forms are available from the Secretary / County Recorders and downloadable from the WOS Website), preferably via the County Recorder or alternatively direct to the **WBRC Secretary: Jon Green, Crud yr Awel, Bowls Road, Blaenporth, Cardigan. Ceredigion. SA43 2AR. (01239 811561).** The Panel are keen to receive any descriptions or photographs in electronic form at **welshrarebirds@tiscali.co.uk**

As of August 2021, results of circulation are posted on twitter: http://mobile.twitter.com/_wbrc

Details of records submitted, but not found acceptable or currently pended for further information are found in Appendix 1.

Systematic List of Accepted Records in 2020

Taiga Bean Goose *Anser fabalis* *Gŵydd Lafur y Taiga*

Total	Pre 1950	1950-59	1960-69	1970-79	1980-89	1990-99	2000-09	2010-19	2020
9	0	0	0	0	1	7	0	0	1

Breeds in Scandinavia and across Russia as far as the Pacific Ocean. The nominate subspecies winters mainly in southern Sweden and to a lesser extent in northern Germany and Poland, with small numbers in Denmark, Falkirk in Scotland and Norfolk in England. It is very rare in Wales.

Anglesey:
RSPB Cors Ddyga, 27 Sept (E. Betteridge).
Photo opposite by T. Carter.

As with all wildfowl, there is always the possibility of geese escaping collections and joining other goose flocks. In this case, the bird's arrival date was in line with others in the UK and therefore the panel assumed the bird to be of wild origin.

Previous Welsh records included singles at RSPB Ynyshir, Ceredigion 8 – 11 Apr 1982, Ogmore, E. Glamorgan, then Nedern, Gwent 22 Jan – 18 Feb 1996, one at Ffairfach, Carmarthen 24 Dec 1996 – 7 Jan 1997 and five at St. David's, Pembrokeshire 27 Dec 1997.

Tundra Bean Goose *Anser serrirostris* Gŵydd Lafur y Twndra

Total	Pre 1950	1950-59	1960-69	1970-79	1980-89	1990-99	2000-09	2010-19	2020
13	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	9	1

Breeds on tundra, from Norway eastwards through Siberia. Birds of the subspecies *A.s. rossicus* breed west of the Taymyr Peninsula and winter in eastern and central Europe. The European winter population numbers c.300,000 and during severe cold weather, birds move west into The Netherlands and eastern England, but it is very rare in Wales.

Gwent:
Goldcliff, then Nedern 21 Nov until 7 May 2021 (M. Meehan et al).

Photo opposite by L. Gregory.

As with the previous species, there is the possibility that this bird may relate to an escaped goose. However, its arrival and departure dates appeared to be in line with others in the UK and therefore the Panel assumed it to be of wild origin.

Previous Welsh records included singles at Cors Fochno, Ceredigion 23 Jan 1955, Dryslwyn, Carmarthen 18 – 28 Dec 1987, Kenfig, E. Glamorgan 5 Jan 2002 and Aber Ogwen, Caernarfon 1 Feb – 2 Mar 2012. Three Llyn Coron, Anglesey 13 – 19 Nov, one until 27 Nov 2011, two Shotwick, Flintshire 4 Jan 2012, and three Dolydd Hafren, Montgomery 28 Jan – 5 Feb 2012.

American Wigeon *Mareca americana* *Chwiwell Americana*

Total	Pre 1950	1950-59	1960-69	1970-79	1980-89	1990-99	2000-09	2010-19	2020
24	1	0	0	2	2	6	7	5	1

This species breeds widely across northern North America and winters in the USA, Central and northern South America. The annual number of British records increased to 15-20 during 1990-2018, with the majority seen in Scotland and northern England (White and Kehoe 2020). It is a rare visitor to Wales and shows no sign of becoming more frequent. Several individuals are presumed to have returned annually and visited the same or neighbouring sites in successive years.

Gwent: adult male, Peterstone, 15 – 17 Jan (P. Bristow).

Green-winged Teal *Anas carolinensis* *Corhwyaden Asgell-werdd*

Total	Pre 1950	1950-59	1960-69	1970-79	1980-89	1990-99	2000-09	2010-19	2020
47	0	0	2	2	5	6	21	10	1

Breeds in North America, winters from southern US south to Argentina. Regular vagrant to Britain. Rare vagrant to Wales with a total of 47 accepted records, all of males.

Caernarfon:
male, Abersoch, 22 - 23 Feb.
(photo opposite M. Hughes).

Ferruginous Duck *Aytha nyroca* *Hwyladen Lygadwen*

Total	Pre 1950	1950-59	1960-69	1970-79	1980-89	1990-99	2000-09	2010-19	2020
37	10	4	2	6	8	3	2	2	0

There are four populations of this species, which breeds discontinuously from northwest Africa to China and winters in the Sahel zone of Africa, the Arabian Peninsula and south and east Asia. The European population has declined rapidly. It occurs in Britain primarily during the winter months, often accompanying Pochards and is presumed to originate from the population that breeds in southeast Europe. There have been almost 700 records in Britain since 1950, averaging around nine each year during 1990-2019 (Holt et al. 2020). The decline in its European population has led to it becoming an increasingly rare visitor to Wales. It is commonly kept in captivity and it is likely that at least some recent records relate to escaped birds.

Brecon: 4CY+ male, Llangorse Lake, 6 Oct 2019 intermittently until 1 Jan 2020 (photo MJ Waldron).

Ring-necked Duck *Aythya collaris* *Hwyaden Dorchog*

Total	Pre 1950	1950-59	1960-69	1970-79	1980-89	1990-99	2000-09	2010-19	2020
58	0	0	2	2	8	7	19	14	6

Breeds North America, winters south to Costa Rica.

Meirionnydd: returning male, Llyn Caer-Euni 23 Aug – 18 Oct (S. Gordon), then at Llyn Tegid 16 Jan 2021 (J. Dustow).
Pembroke: immature male, first seen on Skokholm 20 Nov 2019 then Marloes Mere 27 Dec – 5 Jan and 5 Feb 2020 before moving to on an irrigation pond at St. Bride's 8 – 15 Feb.
Ceredigion: immature male, Llyn Pendam, then Blaenmelidwr, from 27 Nov 2019 into March 2020
E. Glamorgan: 1CY female Cardiff Bay 14 Oct (G. Stamp), then at Cosmeston Lakes & Cardiff Bay, 18 Oct – 7 Nov, and at both sites again 25 Nov – end of the year and into 2021.
1CY male, Cosmeston Lakes 17 Oct (M. Meehan, GN Smith, A. Bevan), then Cosmeston Lakes & Cardiff Bay, 25 Oct to 7 Nov.
1CY female Rhaslas Pond 19 Nov (T. Chinnick), then at Bute Town Pond 26 & 27 Nov (R. Moores).
Carmarthen: female, Talley Lakes 1 Dec into January 2021 (L. Gravett).
Two males Llyn Pencarreg 3 Dec (A. Williams, L. Gravett), one there 10 Dec.
Above all three birds at Talley Lakes 5 – 6 & 22 Dec, but only two on 27 Dec (B. Beck, L. Gravett).

The three in Carmarthen moved from one site to the other, quite regularly and increased to four birds, two males and two females in January 2021.

Male, at St. Bride's, Pembroke, photo by B. Southern.

1CY female, at Cosmeston, photo by GN Smith.

King Eider *Somateria spectabilis* *Hwyaden Fwythblu'r Gogledd*

Total	Pre 1950	1950s	1960s	1970s	1980s	1990s	2000s	2010-19	2020
3	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	1

Breeds Kanin Peninsula E across Arctic Siberia, including Noyaya Zemlya & W Svalbard, Arctic Alaska, N Canada & N Greenland. European population winters along ice-free coasts of White Sea, N Norway & Iceland.

Pembroke:
1CY male, Little Haven 10 Nov, then moving along the coast near St. Bride's, remaining there until 30 Dec, but probably overwintered, with a lack of observations due to COVID-19 lockdown restrictions (D. Ord et al). Photo opposite.

Surf Scoter *Melanitta perspicillata* *Mor-hwyaden yr Ewyn*

Total	Pre 1960	1950-59	1960-69	1970-79	1980-89	1990-99	2000-09	2010-19	2020
76	0	0	0	4	16	15	15	24	2

Breeds northern North America, winters on the Atlantic coast, south to North Carolina.

Denbigh: male, Old Colwyn 1 Dec 2019 until 19 Jan 2020 (M. Hughes et al).
Caernarfon: male, Uwchmynydd, 15 Sept (M. Hall)
Carmarthen: male, Ragwen Point, 24 Dec (T. Phelps).

Smew *Mergellus albellus* *Lleian Wen*

Total 1967-2019	1967-69	1970-79	1988-89	1990-99	2000-09	2010-19	2020
363	23	35	75	129	67	34	0

Breeds central Europe, mainly a winter visitor to the UK. Added to WBRC list as of 1st Jan 2018 after many years of declining occurrence in Wales. The table above shows the number of Smew reported in the Welsh Bird reports since 1967, when the first Welsh Bird Report was published.

Ceredigion: female type, RSPB Ynyshir 7 Dec 2019 and 12 Jan 2020 (S. Young, T. Gordon).
Gwent: Male, Llandegfedd Res. 2 Dec – 16 & 26 Dec 2019, also at Llanbadoc 22 & 27 Dec to at least 1 Feb 2020 (C. Constance et al).

Corncrake *Crex crex* *Rhegen yr yd*

Total 1967 - 2020	1967-69	1970-79	1980-89	1990-99	2000-09	2010-19	2020
168	26	75	8	33	9	16	1

Since 1967, when the Welsh Bird Report began, a total of approximately 168 breeding and passage birds have been recorded in Wales. Passage peaks are in April/May, as breeding birds make their way north to Scotland, and in September as adults and juveniles disperse south to Africa.

Pembroke: Abercastle 11 Aug (D. Gaunt).

Common Crane *Grus grus* *Garan*

Total	1900- 1950	1950-59	1960-69	1970-79	1980-89	1990-99	2000-09	2010-19	2020
53	1	1	2	5	9	6	15	13	1

A rare visitor to Wales from Central Europe where it breeds, wintering in southern Europe around the Mediterranean and Africa. Individuals from the Somerset re-introduction scheme have been reported on many occasions in South Wales since the scheme began, not just the attempted breeding in E. Glamorgan & Gwent, with only individuals that are thought to be of wild origin are included in the table above.

Ceredigion: Dihewyd 9 Apr (photo per RSPB), unringed, so assumed of wild origin.

At present it is assumed that all the Somerset reintroduced birds are ringed and therefore observers are asked to check legs for rings. WBRC will only accept as wild, if the legs of Cranes are seen and no rings are observed. This needs to be included in the description.

Birds probably originating in the Somerset reintroduction scheme:

Anglesey: two observed in flight over South Stack 27 Mar (D. Shaw). Details of legs were not seen, therefore, using WBRC criteria, possibility of re-introduced birds could not be ruled out.
E. Glamorgan: colour ringed female from the Somerset Re-introduction Scheme reported at an undisclosed site 12 May.

Red-necked Grebe *Podiceps grisegena* *Gwyach Yddfgoch*

Total 1950 - 2020	1950-59	1960-69	1970-79	1988-89	1990-99	2000-09	2010-19	2020
413	6	30	63	133	100	54	24	3

Breeds central Europe, mainly a winter visitor to the UK. Red-necked Grebe was added to the WBRC list as of 1st Jan 2017.

Gower:
Penclawdd, 15 Jan (E. Hunter).

Anglesey:
Point Lynas 1 Feb (N. Brown).

Pembroke:
Llys y fran Dam 15-16 Nov (D. Ord), photo opposite.

2017 Gower: Oxwich, 3 Mar (E. Hunter).

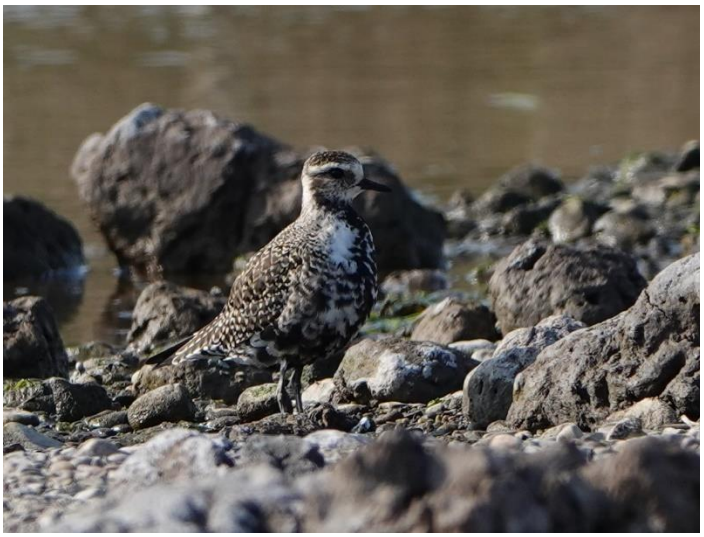
American Golden Plover *Pluvialis dominica* *Corgwtiad Aur*

Total	Pre 1950	1950-59	1960-69	1970-79	1980-89	1990-99	2000-09	2010-19	2020
23	0	0	0	0	2	0	9	10	2

Another long-distance migrant, the American Golden Plover breeds on costal tundra from extreme NE Siberia, east across N Alaska and Canada to Baffin Island. It migrates over the western Atlantic to wintering grounds in southern South America.

Pembroke: adult, Gann 4 May (DJ Astins), photo below left.

1CY, Abercastle, 11 Oct (photo, below right, S. Jones).



Upland Sandpiper *Bartramia longicauda* *Pibydd Cynffonhir*

Total	Pre 1950	1950-59	1960-69	1970-79	1980-89	1990-99	2000-09	2010-19	2020
4	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	1

This species has an extensive breeding range across North America and winters in South America. It is a rare transatlantic vagrant to Britain with 48 records to the end of 2020, on average one every other year over the past 30 years (Holt et al. 2020).

Pembroke: 1CY, Skokholm, 31 Oct (G. Eagle).

The fourth Welsh record, the others were all in Pembrokeshire: on Skokholm 18 Oct 1960, Skomer 19-20 Oct 1961 and on Dale Airfield 1 Sept 1975.

Buff-breasted Sandpiper *Calidris subruficollis* *Pibydd Bronllwyd*

Total	Pre 1950	1950-59	1960-69	1970-79	1980-89	1990-99	2000-09	2010-19	2020
74	0	0	1	10	20	7	10	21	5

Breeds in the High Arctic of Alaska and northwest Canada, and in the far east of Siberia, migrating overland to winter in northern Argentina and Uruguay. There has been a large increase in the numbers recorded in Britain over the last 50 years, increasing from an average of 15 a year in the period 1990-99, to 41 a year in 2010-19 (White and Kehoe 2020). Numbers have also increased in Wales, where it may be the commonest trans-Atlantic wader, since many of the Pectoral Sandpipers reaching Britain are thought to breed in Western Siberia.

Pembroke: one, St. Govan's Head 5 Sept (photo M. Januszcyk).
Two, Marloes Mere 12 Sept, one remaining until 21st, other until 16th when seen at the Gann Estuary (A. Downing, DJ Astins et al).
Two, St. Govan's Head, assumed different to above, 18 – 20 Sept (A & A Polkey et al), photo below by DJ Astins.

Pectoral Sandpiper *Calidris melanotos* *Pibydd Cain*

Total	Pre 1950	1950-59	1960-69	1970-79	1980-89	1990-99	2000-09	2010-19	2020
147	0	2	15	22	23	14	34	32	5

Breeds in eastern Siberia and northern North America, and winters in southern South America, southeast Australia and New Zealand.

Pembroke:
Skokholm 31 May
(G. Eagle, R. Brown).

1CY, Skokholm, 15 Sept
(R. Brown, G. Eagle, R. Dobbins).

Gwent:
1CY, Goldcliff 20-21 Aug
(M. Pointon, photo P. Leyshon).

Anglesey:
1CY, Cemlyn. 9 Sept (M. Sutton).

Ceredigion:
1CY, Llanrhystud 10 Sept (S. Jones), photo right.

Red-necked Phalarope *Phalaropus lobatus* *Llydandroed Gyfgoch*

Total	Pre 1950	1950-59	1960-69	1970-79	1980-89	1990-99	2000-09	2010-19	2020
69	12	10	9	4	5	3	12	12	2

Pelagic during non-breeding season. Breeds N. Europe. Rare breeder in northern Scotland and NW Ireland.

Anglesey: Cemlyn, 21 July (B. Stammers).
E. Glamorgan: Sker, 4 Nov (D. Bolt, photo N. Donaghy, NP Roberts), photo below by N. Donaghy.

Lesser Yellowlegs *Tringa flavipes* *Melyngoes Bach*

Total	Pre 1950	1950-59	1960-69	1970-79	1980-89	1990-99	2000-09	2010-19	2020
27	0	1	3	2	2	2	6	10	1

The Lesser Yellowlegs breeds in northern North America and winters from the USA south to southern South America. Dropped off BBRC's list onto WBRC's as of 1st January 2019.

Gwent: 1CY, Goldcliff 21 – 22 Sept (photo posted online, M. Powell).

Bonaparte's Gull *Chroicocephalus philadelphia* *Gwylan Bonaparte*

Total	Pre 1950	1950-59	1960-69	1970-79	1980-89	1990-99	2000-09	2010-19	2020
28	1	0	0	0	2	5	7	11	2

Breeds widely across N North America from W and C Alaska through Canada to James Bay. Winters locally on ice-free rivers and lakes in N USA, and S along both coasts of USA to Mexico and Caribbean.

Pembroke: 3CY+, Teifi Estuary 23 June (R. Dobbins et al), photo below left by J. Green.
2CY+, Gann Estuary, 31 Oct intermittently until 18 Nov (DJ Astins et al), photo below right.

Ring-billed Gull *Larus delawarensis* *Gwylan Fodrwybig*

Total	Pre 1950	1950-59	1960-69	1970-79	1980-89	1990-99	2000-09	2010-19	2020
422	0	0	0	24	99	194	92	12	1

Breeds N. America and Canada. Winters south of breeding range to S. Mexico, Gulf of Mexico and on the Great Lakes. This species was on the BBRC list from the first UK record at Blackpill Gower 14 – 31 Mar & 7 Apr 1973 until 1987. It was only added onto the WBRC list as of 2011 following declines in Wales and the rest of the UK. Decadal totals above, wherever possible only include new birds. This was not possible during the 1990s when so many individuals were seen at Blackpill. There is also the issue of birds moving from one county to another.

Pembroke:
Adult, Llys y fran Res. 28 Nov 2019 – 23 Feb, returning from 25 Nov (B. Southern et al).

2CY, Gann 4 & 6 Jan
(DJ Astins, LH Morgan, B. Southern et al), photo by DJ Astins.

The Llys y fran bird has been wintering there since 2006. The Gann bird is assumed to be a new arrival.

Kumlien's Gull *Larus glaucoides kumlieni* *Gwylan Kumlien*

Total	Pre 1950	1950-59	1960-69	1970-79	1980-89	1990-99	2000-09	2010-19	2020
12	0	0	0	0	0	3	1	7	1

It breeds in Arctic Canada and winters on the east coast of North America from Labrador to New England, and also around the Great Lakes.

Gower: 2CY, Aberavon 22 Feb -14 Mar (R. Griswold et al).

Caspian Gull *Larus cachinnans* *Gwylan Caspia*

Total	Pre 1950	1950-59	1960-69	1970-79	1980-89	1990-99	2000-09	2010-19	2020
15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	5

Resident in much of the Black Sea and Caspian Sea. It also seasonally breeds from the Black Sea, across the north of the Caspian Sea to eastern Kazakhstan, and on the central Asian steppes. Wintering grounds include the coast of south-west Asia (breeders from the steppes), the north-west coast of Africa, and around the Arabian Peninsula up to north-west India.

E. Glamorgan:
1CY, Cardiff Bay 28 Nov – 2021 (G. Stamp et al).

2CY, Cosmeston Lakes, 12 Jan (GN Smith).

2CY, Cardiff Bay, 8 Apr (G. Stamp).

1CY / juv, Cosmeston, 3 Sept (GN Smith).

Pembroke:
Adult, Gann Estuary 11 & 23 Nov (DJ Astins et al).
Photo right by DJ Astins.

Adult, Gann Estuary 20 – 22 Nov (DJ Astins, LH Morgan et al).

The second adult at the Gann Estuary was a colour-ringed individual (X290), ringed in Germany and had previously been seen at Llanrhystud, Ceredigion in March 2017 and Nevern Estuary, Pembroke in July 2017.

Caspian Tern *Hydroprogne caspia* *Mor-wennol Gawraidd*

Total	Pre 1950	1950-59	1960-69	1970-79	1980-89	1990-99	2000-09	2010-19	2020
12	0	0	1	2	3	3	1	1	1

This global seabird breeds on five continents, but in Europe is limited to the north coast of the Black Sea and the coasts of the northern Baltic Sea. The latter population winters in West Africa, as far south as the Gulf of Guinea. A total of 331 were recorded in Britain up to the end of 2020, about five a year on average over the last 30 years (Holt et al. 2021). There have been just 12 in Wales, all between 11 April and 6 August, except for one record off Bardsey in October.

Pembroke: Gann Estuary 4 Aug (DJ Astins), photo below.

Cory's Shearwater *Calonectris borealis* *Aderyn Drycin Cory*

Total	Pre 1950	1950-59	1960-69	1970-79	1980-89	1990-99	2000-09	2010-19	2020
118	0	0	1	3	29	41	25	17	2

Breeds on Berlengas Islands (West Portugal) west to the Azores and south to the Canary Islands. It is pelagic outside the breeding season, most often seen off British and Irish coasts in late summer. Cory's Shearwaters are scarce passage migrants off the Welsh coast. The similar Scopoli's Shearwater *Calonectris diomedea* which breeds on Mediterranean Islands and Cape Verde Shearwater *Calonectris edwardsii* from the Cape Verde Islands have never been recorded in Wales.

Pembroke: two, Strumble Head, 25 Sept (R. Davies, L. Gravett et al).

Great Shearwater *Ardenna gravis* *Aderyn Drycin Mawr*

Total	Pre 1950	1950-59	1960-69	1970-79	1980-89	1990-99	2000-09	2010-19	2020
290	0	1	3	5	51	111	61	57	1

Late summer / autumn passage migrant that breeds in the south Atlantic. Pelagic during non-breeding season, completes clockwise migration around Atlantic Ocean occurring in British and Irish waters mainly during late summer and early autumn.

Pembroke: Strumble Head 26 Aug (per P. Bristow et al).

White Stork *Ciconia ciconia* *Ciconia Gwyn*

Total	Pre 1950	1950-59	1960-69	1970-79	1980-89	1990-99	2000-09	2010-19	2020
75	3	0	0	12	14	8	12	25	1

Migrant in warmer boreal to warm temperate zones, Russia, China and central Europe.

Pembroke: one in a field at Mathry, 20 Apr (per Pembrokeshire blog).

Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus* *Crymanbig Ddu*

Total	Pre 1950	1950-59	1960-69	1970-79	1980-89	1990-99	2000-09	2010-19	2020
144	12	1	0	1	1	1	27	86	15

Migrant from warm temperate and tropical zones, Greece, Turkey, North Africa and the Middle East. Increasing records in UK linked with recent range expansion northwards. Added to WBRC list as of January 2013.

Gwent: Newport Wetland Reserve, Goldcliff 14 Jan 2019 into 2020.
Second bird Goldcliff from 17 Sept (photo Gwent blog), photo right below J. Lawton.
Anglesey: Cemlyn 19 – 20 Sept (M. Sutton).
Two, Cors Ddyga, 19 - 27 Sept (J. Parry, photo Birds of Anglesey blog).
Carmarthen: Ferryside 4 Sept, then Kidwelly 6 – 13 Sept (P. Tillotson, J. John), photo below left.
Gower: Llanrhidian, 17 & 18 Sept (B. Stewart, R. Jones, JN Edwards, M. Piercy).
Meiri / Caern. Porthmadog, 14 Sept (E. Lewis).
Pembroke: Seven Gann 10 Sept, two following day (DJ Astins et al).
Pencarnan Campsite, St. David's 21 Sept (J & M Best).

Night Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax* *Crëyr y Nos*

Total	Pre 1950	1950-59	1960-69	1970-79	1980-89	1990-99	2000-09	2010-2019	2020
52	10	0	2	2	4	18	7	8	1

Breeds in Iberia, NW Africa, France and Netherlands eastwards to Japan, also southern Africa and the Americas. European population winters in Africa, south of Sahara.

Gower:
Burry Pill 14 Sept (photo A. Fowkes).

Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea* *Crëyr Porffor*

Total	Pre 1950	1950-59	1960-69	1970-79	1980-89	1990-99	2000-09	2010-19	2020
74	5	0	3	14	15	8	8	19	2

Dispersive migrant, from warmer temperate to tropical zones, southern Europe.

E. Glam / Gower:
Adult, Kenfig Saltmarsh 21 – 27 Apr
(R. Jones et al).
Photo opposite R. Jones.

Anglesey:
Adult, RSPB Cors Ddyga, 6 -9 Sept (B. Iddon).

Montagu's Harrier *Circus pygargus* *Bod Montagu*

Total 1967-2020	1967-69	1970-79	1980-89	1990-99	2000-09	2010-19	2020
72	22	21	12	7	6	3	1

Breeds north-west Africa and southern and central Europe east through Caspian lowlands to Kazakhstan and upper River Yenisey. Winters in Africa south of Sahara and Indian Subcontinent south to Sri Lanka. This species used to breed in Wales, the last successful attempt was in 1962, and is presently described as a rare passage migrant. Table above excludes birds holding territory.

E. Glamorgan: male, Merthyr Mawr 21 Apr (T. Wright, NP Roberts et al), photos below NP Roberts.
This bird holds the WBRC record as the fastest circulation and acceptance of all time, as it was submitted and assessed whilst the observers were watching the bird.

Black Kite *Milvus migrans* *Barcud du*

Total	Pre 1950	1950-59	1960-69	1970-79	1980-89	1990-99	2000-09	2010-19	2020
25	0	0	0	3	3	3	5	10	1

Breeds throughout continental Europe, most in Spain, France and Germany, with smaller populations in all, except maritime NW Europe and Scandinavia. To E, breeds European Russia to Kazakhstan and C Siberia. Nominate race winters Africa and NW Indian subcontinent. Other races are resident or dispersive in sub-Saharan Africa, Indian subcontinent, E and SE Asia and Australia.

Caernarfon: Bardsey 24 Apr (EJ Stansfield et al).

Bee-eater *Merops apiaster* Gwybedog Gwenyn

Total	Pre 1950	1950-59	1960-69	1970-79	1980-89	1990-99	2000-09	2010-19	2020
80	5	3	1	8	11	5	14	20	13

Breeds in southern Europe, northwest Africa, the Middle East and Central Asia. European birds winter in the Sahel zone in West Africa. Another population is resident in southern Africa (HBW). The species is a scarce migrant visitor to Britain, usually as a spring overshoot, although some have occasionally remained to breed in England. The number of records in Britain has increased, with the annual mean in 2010-18, 73 records, almost double that of 1990-99 (White and Kehoe 2020). Sightings in Wales have mirrored this trend, although the species remains a scarce visitor here.

Caernarfon: 13 at Mynydd Rhiw 9 May (P. Belman, B. Porter). Three of which were trapped & ringed.

Largest flock ever recorded in Wales, the previous largest flock was of seven at Mumbles, Gower June 1973.

Red-backed Shrike *Lanius collurio* *Cigydd Cefngoch*

Total 1967-2020	1967-69	1970-79	1980-89	1990-99	2000-09	2010-2019	2020
164	14	23	22	33	37	29	6

Breeds throughout most of mainland Europe. Table above shows data from 1967 onwards, with those from 1991 assessed by WBRC.

Anglesey:
male, Cemaes, 29 May (S. Culley).
male, Malltraeth Cob 12 June (M. Thackeray).
1CY, Cestyll, Cemlyn 14 Sept (RI Thorpe), photo opposite by M. Jones.

Caernarfon:
male, Bardsey, 2 June (M. Crane).

Pembroke:
female, Skomer 28 May (photo Skomer blog).
female, Martin's Haven 21 June (F. Day et al).

Woodchat Shrike *Lanius senator* *Cigydd Pengoch*

Total	Pre 1950	1950-59	1960-69	1970-79	1980-89	1990-99	2000-09	2010-19	2020
127	6	11	24	12	12	13	14	32	3

Breeds from France and northwest Africa east to Ukraine and southern Iran. Winters in Africa south of the Sahara.

Flint:
Hawarden, 23 May (K. Evans-Jones).

Caernarfon:
female, Bardsey 29 May (G. Dunbar et al).
Photo opposite by SD Stansfield.

Denbigh:
male, Rhuddlan, 30 July (M. Bailey)

Jackdaw *Corvus monedula* *Jac y do*

Total	Pre 1950	1950-59	1960-69	1970-79	1980-89	1990-99	2000-09	2010-19	2020
22	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	21	1

Individuals showing features of the Nordic form *C. m. monedula*, include:

Caernarfon: Llandudno, 5 Jan (B. Myerscough).

The panel is not certain whether these records relate to genuine Scandinavian birds or whether the plumage characteristics they show are within normal variation for British Jackdaws. Therefore, the panel requests as many photographed records as possible to try to solve this dilemma.

Golden Oriole *Oriolus oriolus* *Euryn*

Total	Pre 1950	1950-59	1960-69	1970-79	1980-89	1990-99	2000-09	2010-19	2020
220	22	4	10	37	27	51	43	25	1

Scarce visitor, usually as spring overshoot, from Mediterranean Europe. Breeds NW Africa throughout Europe from Mediterranean north to southern Sweden & southern Finland, Russia, Turkey & Caucasus to NW Iran. Winters equatorial & southern Africa. A scarce summer visitor to Wales, recorded in all counties and particularly in Pembrokeshire. Most of the records fall in May and June as is to be expected with a species overshooting its continental breeding areas.

Gower: male, Neath Valley, 1 June (E. Hunter).

A singing male in the Neath Valley during COVID-19 lockdown 1. A second bird, female / immature was also submitted at the same site, on the same day, but the Panel deemed the views and description too vague for acceptance.

Shore Lark *Eremophila alpestris* *Ehedydd y Traeth*

Total	Pre 1950	1950-59	1960-69	1970-79	1980-89	1990-99	2000-09	2010-19	2020
292	1	1	146	29	21	75	9	9	1

(Horned Lark) Holarctic; breeds across the Northern Hemisphere, winter visitor to Britain, mainly *flava* which migrates SW from Northern Europe. Rare winter visitor to Wales and very occasionally on passage. Wintering flocks in the past have mainly been on the Dee Estuary but numbers decreased towards the end of the 20th Century and this species was added to the WBRC list in 1992.

Caernarfon:
Bardsey 30 May
(G. Dunbar, SD Stansfield et al).
Photo opposite by SD Stansfield.

Red-rumped Swallow *Cecropis daurica* *Gwennol Dingoch*

Total	Pre 1950	1950-59	1960-69	1970-79	1980-89	1990-99	2000-09	2010-19	2020
33	0	0	0	3	7	4	6	12	1

Breeds Iberia, southern France and northwest Africa; Balkans east to Japan and south to Sri Lanka; central Africa. The Western Palearctic population winters in Africa, south of the Sahara. A very rare migrant to Wales with 30 accepted records. Within the UK as a whole, numbers of accepted records increased steadily during the 20th Century, particularly since 2000, resulting in this species dropping from the BBRC's list onto the WBRC's.

Pembroke:
Heathfield Gravel Pits, 20 Apr (M. Young-Powell).
Photo opposite.

Pallas' Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus proregulus* *Telor Pallas*

Total	Pre 1950	1950-59	1960-69	1970-79	1980-89	1990-99	2000-09	2010-19	2020
49	0	0	0	1	7	11	11	18	1

A scarce migrant to Wales, which breeds in the coniferous taiga forests of southern Siberia east of the Ural Mountains and in mixed forest as far south as Mongolia. It winters in southeast China and adjacent countries. Not surprisingly, the majority of British records are from the east coast of England and Scotland. Far fewer make it to the west.

Caernarfon:
Great Orme, 25 Oct (M. Hughes).
Photo opposite.

Dusky Warbler *Phylloscopus fuscatus* *Telor Tywyll*

Total	Pre 1950	1950-59	1960-69	1970-79	1980-89	1990-99	2000-09	2010-19	2020
7	0	0	0	0	3	1	1	1	1

This very rare vagrant to Wales breeds in taiga bogs and wet meadows in central and eastern Siberia, south to central China, and winters in southeast Asia. The number of records elsewhere in Britain has increased markedly, from an average of 13 each year in 1990-99 to 27 in 2010-18, bringing the total to 590 (White and Kehoe 2020).

Anglesey:
Wylfa Wood 25 Oct (S. Culley, T. White, L. Burgess).
Photo opposite by S. Culley.

Greenish Warbler *Phylloscopus trochiloides* *Telor Gwyrdd*

Total	Pre 1950	1950-59	1960-69	1970-79	1980-89	1990-99	2000-09	2010-19	2020
36	0	2	2	1	2	6	1	20	2

In Europe breeds east Germany to southern Finland, east through Russia to Yenisey River & south through north west Mongolia to northern Afghanistan & north-western Himalayas. Winters throughout Indian subcontinent & east to northern Thailand.

Caernarfon: Bardsey 29 May (SD Stansfield et al), photo below left.
Pembroke: trapped, Skokholm 23 June (R. Brown et al), photo below right.

Blyth's Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus dumetorum* *Telor y Cyrs Blyth*

Total	Pre 1950	1950-59	1960-69	1970-79	1980-89	1990-99	2000-09	2010-19	2020
12	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	8	3

Breeds in eastern Europe (mainly south Finland, Baltic states, Belarus) east to northern Kazakhstan, northwest Mongolia and central Russia (upper R Lena and southeast Altai), also Tien Shan south to probably northern Afghanistan and northeast Iran. Winters in south and eastern Indian Subcontinent and Myanmar.

Pembroke: male singing Ramsey 29 May (G. Morgan et al).
Caernarfon: male singing, Bardsey 30 - 31 May (G. Dunbar, SD Stansfield et al).
male singing, Bardsey 8 June (SD Stansfield).

Three in a year makes 2020 a bumper crop for this species.

Marsh Warbler *Acrocephalus palustris* *Telor y Gwerni*

Total	Pre 1950	1950-59	1960-69	1970-79	1980-89	1990-99	2000-09	2010-19	2020
29	0	1	0	2	6	4	6	9	1

A small population breeds in south and east England however the main breeding grounds are in Eastern Europe. A rare vagrant to Wales with 29 accepted records. All records are assessed by WBRC. Within the UK numbers of records appear to be stable or showing a slight decline, with annual means declining from 53 in the 1990s to 44 in the 2010s.

Caernarfon: Bardsey 15 Oct (G. Dunbar, SD Stansfield).

Melodious Warbler *Hippolais polyglotta* *Telor Pêr*

Total	Pre 1950	1950-59	1960-69	1970-79	1980-89	1990-99	2000-09	2010-19	2020
226	0	16	51	30	39	27	26	33	4

Breeds in open deciduous woodland and scrubby habitats in northwest Africa and western Europe and winters in Africa, south of the Sahara (HBW). In Britain it occurs more frequently in the south and west and is a scarce migrant to Wales, with almost twice as many records as Icterine Warbler, which tends to occur farther east and north.

Caernarfon:
Bardsey, 30 July (M. Carter, SD Stansfield).

Pembroke:
Skokholm 2 Sept
(R. Dykes, R. Brown).
Photo opposite.

Skomer 6 -15 Sept (E. Betteridge).

Skokholm 10 – 19 Sept (W. James et al).

Icterine Warbler *Hippolais icterina* *Telor Aur*

Total	Pre 1950	1950-59	1960-69	1970-79	1980-89	1990-99	2000-09	2010-19	2020
123	0	2	20	14	26	30	16	12	3

This species replaces Melodious Warbler in northern and eastern Europe, and consequently occurs less frequently in Wales. It breeds in woodland from northeast France to western Siberia and north to Fennoscandia and winters in Africa south of the Sahara. It is a scarce migrant to Wales, where records increased during the second half of the 20th Century but have fallen since a peak in the 1990s. These trends mirror those for the rest of Britain, with an annual mean of 139 during 1990-99 but 78 in 2010-18 (White and Kehoe 2020).

Pembroke:
trapped & ringed on Skomer
9 May (per Skomer blog).

Caernarfon:
Bardsey, 15 Aug (SD Stansfield).

Anglesey:
Newborough
18 Aug (P. French), photo opposite.

Barred Warbler *Curruca nisoria* *Telor Rhesog*

Total	Pre 1950	1950-59	1960-69	1970-79	1980-89	1990-99	2000-09	2010-19	2020
112	1	2	20	6	13	18	22	29	1

The Barred Warbler nests in scrub and woodland across the farmed landscape in Europe, east of a line from Denmark to the Adriatic, through southern Russia and Central Asia to Mongolia. The southern edge of Fennoscandia is the northern limit of the breeding range. It winters in a fairly discrete area of east Africa, centred on Kenya. It is a scarce autumn migrant to Wales, although the number of records has increased during the last 30 years. Such a pattern has been evident across Britain, where the annual number of records was 84% higher in 2010-18 than in 1968-89 (White and Kehoe 2020). It is believed that those found here are part of extended post-juvenile dispersal.

Meirionnydd:
Tonfanau, 15 & 16 Oct
(G & A Chambers), photo opposite.

Western Subalpine Warbler *Curruca iberiae* *Telor Brongoch y Gorllewin*

Total	Pre 1950	1950-59	1960-69	1970-79	1980-89	1990-99	2000-09	2010-19	2020
5	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	1

Race *iberiae* breeds Iberian Peninsula, S France and NW Italy, race *inornata* breeds Morocco, N. Algeria, Tunisia & NW Libya. Winters Sahel from Senegal to Sudan.

Pembroke: 2CY female, trapped on Skokholm 8 May (R. Brown, G. Eagle).

Previous Welsh records include individuals on Bardsey 18 Apr 2009 & 29 Apr 2011 and at Uwchmynydd, 19 – 30 Apr 2013, all Caernarfon and 2CY female Skomer, Pembroke, 20th May 2018.

Eastern Subalpine Warbler *Curruca cantillans* *Telor Brongoch Dwyrain*

Total	Pre 1950	1950-59	1960-69	1970-79	1980-89	1990-99	2000-09	2010-19	2020
19	0	0	0	0	2	1	3	12	1

There are two subspecies, the nominate form that breeds in Sicily and southern Italy, and *C.c. albistriata* that breeds in the very northeast of Italy, the Balkans and western Turkey. Both are presumed to winter in the eastern part of the Sahel. There were 111 records in Britain up to end of 2020 (Holt *et al.* 2021).

Pembroke:
2CY male, Skokholm 9 May (R. Brown, G. Eagle).

Of the 19 Welsh records, all were in spring, between 13 April and 29 May. Of these, 11 were on Bardsey, and there have been four on Skokholm, two on Skomer and one on Ramsey. The only Welsh mainland record was at St Davids Head, Pembroke on 13 April 2014.

Western / Eastern Subalpine Warbler *Curruca cantillans / iberiae* *Rhywogaeh Telor Brongoch*

Total	Pre 1950	1950-59	1960-69	1970-79	1980-89	1990-99	2000-09	2010-19	2020
59	0	1	0	3	9	17	16	11	2

Pembroke: 2CY+ male, Ramsey 16 Apr (G. Morgan).
2CY male Martin's Haven 23 Apr (S. Tusa).
2016 Pembroke: 2CY+ female, Skokholm 13 May (R. Brown, G. Eagle).

WBRC / BBRC is reviewing all records where photographs exist to try and reach a consensus of which species / sub-species they refer to. All records of Subalpine Warbler, including those that can be sub-specifically identified are now assessed by BBRC.

Rose-coloured Starling *Pastor roseus* *Drudwen Wridog*

Total	Pre 1950	1950-59	1960-69	1970-79	1980-89	1990-99	2000-09	2010-19	2020
148	13	1	3	5	4	17	43	47	15

Breeds from Hungary and Balkans east to Kazakhstan and southern Iran. Occasionally irrupts west in summer. Winters in the Indian region.

Anglesey: 1CY Llanfaethlu from October 2019 until 27 Feb 2020 (per County Recorder).
Adult, Trearddur Bay, 3 June (C. Langley).
Adult, Cemaes Bay, 17 – 24 June (L & S. Bray, photo S. Culley).
1 summer, Cemaes Bay, 29 July – 1 Aug (L & S. Bray, photo S. Culley),
Adult Bull Bay, 6 Sept – 1 Oct (S. Hart, photo S. Culley), then presumed same at Amlwch Port 14 Nov until the end of the year (J. Dyda).
Caernarfon: adult Bardsey, 13 June (SD Stansfield).
adult, Rhos on Sea 22 June (R. Sandham).
1CY, Nefyn 30 Sept (S. Roulston).
Carmarthen: adult, St. Clears, 2 June (P & K Lloyd).
adult Ginst 29 June (J. Llewellyn).
adult Burry Port, 15 July (R. Hunt), photo below right.
Ceredigion: adult, Gwbert 25 June (R. Dobbins et al).
Pembroke: adult, Marloes 31 May (LH Morgan, DJ Astins).
adult, Skokholm 21 June (G. Eagle et al), photo below left.
adult, Milford Haven 29 July (S. Neale).
adult, Skomer 13 Aug (O. Padget).
Brecon: adult, Felinfach 29 – 1 July (S & D Shaw).
Meirionnydd: adult, Trawsfynydd 30 July – 3 Aug (A. Owen).

2004 Pemb: juv. Skokholm 6 – 9 Sept (photo P. Blatcher).

Bluethroat *Luscinia svecica* *Bronlas Smotyn Coch*

Total	Pre 1950	1950-59	1960-69	1970-79	1980-89	1990-99	2000-09	2010-19	2020
52	1	2	8	9	6	10	9	6	1

This subspecies breeds in northern Europe, northern Asia and Alaska and winters in north Africa and south Asia. The breeding range of this subspecies has been contracting in Fennoscandia and the eastern Baltic. The majority of Bluethroat records in Wales, identified to subspecies, were Red-spotted *svecica*. White-spotted *cyanecula* individuals are now assessed by BBRC.

Pembroke: red-spotted male, *svecica*, Skokholm 20 May (R. Brown et al), photos below.

Nightingale *Luscinia megarhynchos* *Eos*

Total 1967-2020	1967-69	1970-79	1988-89	1990-99	2000-09	2010-19	2020
124	21	39	21	26	8	8	1

The Nightingale breeds in a broad band across much of central and western Europe, south to northwest Africa, and east in a scattered distribution to northwest China. In Britain it is now restricted to southern and eastern England, south of a line from the Severn to the Humber. It occupies a variety of habitats, including scrub and open woodland with thickets and dense patches of vegetation. Nightingales are migratory, wintering in tropical Africa south of the Sahara.
The Nightingale is now recorded as a scarce migrant in Wales, though there have been no ringing recoveries to indicate the likely origins of passage birds. Since 1967 at least 124 individuals, including a few breeding birds, have been recorded in Wales.

Montgomery: one recorded singing at Cors Dyfi by the Dyfi Osprey webcam on 31 May (J. Porteus).

Red-breasted Flycatcher *Ficedula parva* *Gwybedog Brongoch*

Total	Pre 1950	1950-59	1960-69	1970-79	1980-89	1990-99	2000-09	2010-19	2020
179	2	9	24	29	34	21	24	34	2

Breeds from southern Sweden south to Austria and Bulgaria eastwards across Siberia. Winters in Pakistan, India and southeast Asia.

Pembroke:
1CY Skomer 21 – 23 Oct
(photo Skomer blog).

1CY St. David's 22 Oct
(J & M Best et al).
Photo opposite by D. Ordd.

Isabelline Wheatear *Oenanthe isabellina* *Tinwen Isabelline*

Total	Pre 1950	1950-59	1960-69	1970-79	1980-89	1990-99	2000-09	2010-19	2020
8	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	4	0

Breeds in western and central Asia. Winters from north-east Africa to central India. An extremely rare vagrant to Wales with eight accepted records, all since 1997. A total of 52 UK records to end of 2020, on average one or two a year.

2019 Caernarfon: 1CY+ Llandudno, 2 Oct (P. Alderson).

Eastern Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla tschutschensis* *Siglen Felen y Dwyrain*

Total	Pre 1950	1950-59	1960-69	1970-79	1980-89	1990-99	2000-09	2010-19	2020
2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1

It occurs from Siberia and Transbaikalia south to Mongolia and Manchuria, east to Amurland, Ussuriland, Sakhalin, Kamchatka, northern Kurils and Commander islands, and possibly Pribilofs and Aleutian Islands, south to northern Japan (northern Hokkaido), as well as extreme north western North America (northern and western Alaska, extreme north western Canada**)**. The species winters in south eastern Asia (Myanmar and Thailand east to Malay Peninsular, south eastern China and Taiwan, China), perhaps west to India and east to the Philippines**,** south to Indonesia, Sundas and Wallacea, and northern Australia.

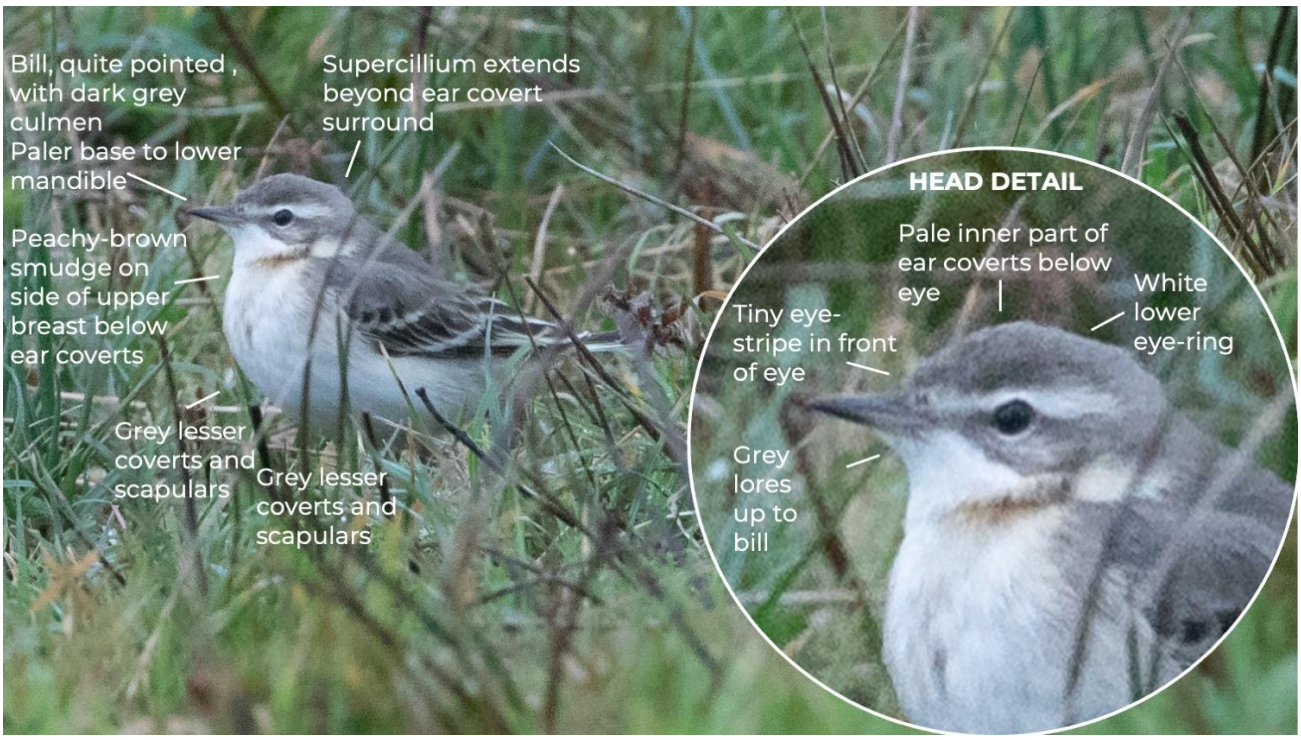
24 accepted UK records to the end of 2020.

Caernarfon:
1CY, Bardsey, 3 – 6 Oct.
(SD Stansfield et al).

Previous record was of a 1CY at Cemlyn, Anglesey 25 – 27 Sept 2019.

Following images are taken from the BBRC submission by SD Stansfield.

White supercilium, slightly greyish white in front of eye, but does not wrap round ear coverts as in Citrine
Dark eyebrow above supercilium, similar to Citrine
Cold uniform steel grey crown and mantle and back, nape appeared at times very slightly paler. Rump as back becoming darker onto upper tail coverts
White outer tail feathers, with dark tail
Clean white breast and belly
Slightest hint of yellow on lower flanks and under tail coverts
Dark Legs
Overall a generally cold monochromatic grey and white wagtail, with distinctive face pattern, not dissimilar to Citrine Wagtail in some ways, with the dark lateral crown stripe above the supercilium.


Bill, quite pointed , with dark grey culmen
Paler base to lower mandible
Supercillium extends beyond ear covert surround
Peachy-brown smudge on side of upper breast below ear coverts
Grey lesser coverts and scapulars
Grey lesser coverts and scapulars
HEAD DETAIL
Pale inner part of ear coverts below eye
White lower eye-ring
Tiny eye-stripe in front of eye
Grey lores up to bill

Citrine Wagtail *Motacilla citreola* *Siglen Sitraidd*

Total	Pre 1950	1950-59	1960-69	1970-79	1980-89	1990-99	2000-09	2010-19	2020
14	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	9	2

Breeds in small, scattered colonies through S & E Europe from Iberia to Poland. Numerous & widespread from N Black Sea E to W Kazakhstan, with Volga/Ural River complex holding most of European population. Winters tropical W & C Africa & from Nile Delta to E Africa. Other populations in Indian subcontinent, E Asia, S Africa & Australia. A rare Asian migrant to Wales with a total of 14 accepted records. Not long ago this species was a great rarity in the UK, but numbers of records increased dramatically towards the end of the 20th Century, so much so that Citrine Wagtail dropped off the BBRC's list onto the WBRC's.

Caernarfon: 1CY Bardsey, 16 Aug (SD Stansfield), photo below left, presumed same 20 – 28 Aug (S. Prettyman et al),
Pembroke: 1CY Skokholm, 27 Aug (R. Brown et al), photo below right.

Common Rosefinch *Carpodacus erythrinus* *Llinos Goch*

Total	Pre 1950	1950-59	1960-69	1970-79	1980-89	1990-99	2000-09	2010-19	2020
165	2	0	3	7	23	41	41	44	4

Breeds central Europe, spring and autumn migrant to UK. Rare passage migrant to Wales with a total of 165 individuals recorded in the Principality. There has been a large increase in accepted records over the past fifty years, mirroring an increase in UK records, but numbers appear to be stable for the last thirty years (annual mean of around 150 records a year over the last three decades in the UK).

Caernarfon:
Immature male, Bardsey 4 – 7 June (G. Dunbar et al).
Photo opposite by SD Stansfield).

Male, Bardey, 12 June (G Dunbar).

Male, Bardsey, 14 June (EJ Stansfield, SD Stansfield).

Gower:
male, Pant y sais 13 – 14 June (P. Stephens).

Common Redpoll *Acanthis flammea* *Llinos Bengoch*

Total 1967-2020	1967-69	1970-79	1980-89	1990-99	2000-09	2010-19	2020
262	1	1	82	112	44	20	2

Common Redpoll has a circumpolar distribution, generally breeding farther south than Arctic Redpoll.

Gower: two, Neath Valley 28 – 30 Mar (E. Hunter).

Snow Bunting *Plectrophenax nivalis nivalis* *Bras y Eira*

Total	Pre 1950	1950-59	1960-69	1970-79	1980-89	1990-99	2000-09	2010-19	2020
12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	1

The nominate subspecies is widespread: Nearctic birds winter across North America, while the Fennoscandian population migrates south as far as central and eastern Europe in winter, with some wintering on the east coast of Britain. There have been seven records of a total of 12 individuals in Wales. The WBRC believes that this subspecies occurs frequently in Wales, but it is rarely documented owing to the difficulty of identification in the field.

Anglesey: male, Red Wharf Bay 22 Jan – 17 Feb (photo M. Jones), below left.

2012 Pembroke: trapped, Fishguard Harbour 11 Mar (photo below right, R. Dobbins).

Corn Bunting *Emberiza calandra* *Bras yr Yd*

Welsh Total 2004-2020	1967-69	1970-79	1988-89	1990-99	2000-09	2010-19	2020
25	-	-	-	-	4	2	19

The Corn Bunting, the largest European bunting, is resident or a summer visitor across Europe except Scandinavia, in north Africa and parts of the Middle East.

Denbigh:
17 Bettisfield, 10 Dec, increasing to 19 on 11 Dec (J. Andrews).
Photo opposite.

The last record from this site was in 2006.

Ortolan Bunting *Emberiza hortulana* *Bras y Gerddi*

Total	Pre 1950	1950-59	1960-69	1970-79	1980-89	1990-99	2000-09	2010-19	2020
183	15	12	40	15	25	32	21	22	1

Breeds in continental Europe and Fenno-Scandia eastwards to northern Iran and Mongolia. Winters in southern Arabia and the southern Sahara, returning in late April or early May. Decadal totals shown in the table above show that numbers of accepted individuals increased slightly towards the end of the 20th century but have declined since. This mirrors the UK trend, where annual means peaked at 72 in the 1990s, declining to 31 in the 2010s.

Caernarfon: Pwll y Cyw, Aberdaron, 17 Sept (RI Thorpe).

Little Bunting *Emeriza pusilla* *Bras Bychan*

Total	Pre 1950	1950-59	1960-69	1970-79	1980-89	1990-99	2000-09	2010-19	2020
35	0	3	2	0	7	4	10	7	2

The Little Bunting has a broadly similar breeding range to that of Rustic Bunting, although slightly farther north through Fennoscandia and across Russia to the Pacific coast (HBW). It winters in southern China and adjacent territories. There has been a dramatic increase in the number of records in Britain over the last 40 years, with annual means of 24 in the 1980s increasing to 74 in the 2010s (White and Kehoe 2020). There was a slight southerly shift in its range, in Fennoscandia, during this time period which may explain part of the increase in numbers being recorded in the UK. This bird is a rare migrant to Wales, with a slight increase in the number of records since the 1980s.

Pembroke: trapped, Skokholm 29 Sept (R. Dobbins et al). Photo below left by R. Brown.
Abereiddy 14 – 15 Dec (M & C. Young-Powell, photo below right).

Species / subspecies not on WBRC list but assessed:

Continental Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo sinensis*)

2020 E. Glamorgan: Kenfig, 25 Dec (N. Donaghy).
2020 Pembroke: two, Gann Estuary, 24 Dec – until end of the year (DJ Astins).
2020 Brecon: Llangorse, 11 Mar (K. Noble).
2017 Brecon: River Usk, 1 Nov (K. Noble).
2009 Brecon: River Usk, 29 Jan (MJ Waldron).
2013 Brecon: two Llangorse 26 Oct (K. Noble).

WBRC has now established that this race occurs quite commonly in Wales and therefore no longer requests submissions.

Presumed Escaped / Re-introduced

Golden Eagle *Aquila chrysaetos*
Ceredigion / Brecon: individual present in the mountains above Tregaron for the last ten years was found dead in August.

White-tailed Eagle immature over Rudry 8 Apr (T. Fletcher) and over Ystrad Mynach – believed to be one of the introduced birds from the Isle of Wight.

APPENDIX I - List of records that were deemed NOT PROVEN

Many of these records were not accepted because WBRC/BBRC were not convinced, on the evidence before them, that the identification was fully established. Only in a very few cases were the Panel satisfied that a mistake had been made.

Species	County	Site	Date
Corncrake	Pembroke	Brawdy	9 May 2020
Brown Booby	Gower	Port Eynon	23 Aug 2020
Black Kite	Pembroke	Dowrog	20 Sept 2020
Night Heron	Gower	Glyneath	20 May 2020
Night Heron	E. Glamorgan	Cardiff	2 May 2020
Red-necked Grebe	Gower	Mumbles Head	2018
Golden Oriole	Denbigh	Moel y Gaer	4 July 2020
Golden Oriole, f / imm	Gower	Neath Valley	1 June 2020
Red-backed Shrike 1CY	Pembroke	Martin's Haven	10 Sept 2020
Nightingale	Montgomery	Newtown	26 June 2020

APPENDIX II - List of records that are still in BBRC circulation

Sooty Tern	Anglesey	Cemlyn	13 June 2020
Isabelline Wheatear	Anglesey	Hen Borth, Carmel Head	30 Aug 2020

APPENDIX III - List of records that were withdrawn by observers

Parrot Crossbills	S Wales	Various sites	Various dates 2017 & 2018
Caspian Gull 2CY	E. Glamorgan	Cardiff Bay	12, 14 & 15 Dec.